

The Native

"OUR COUNTRY, ALWAYS RIGHT,"

VOL. IV.] CITY OF WASHINGTON.

POETRY.

From the Knickerbocker for June.

THE MARRIAGE VOW.

"Look how they come—a mingled crowd
Of bright and dark; but rapid days:
Beneath them like a summer cloud,
The wide world changes as ye gaze."

BRYANT.

Speak it not lightly! 'tis a holy thing,
A bond enduring through long distant years,
When joy or sorrow's shade is hovering,
Or when things seem to be in air,
Recorded by an angel's pen on high,
And must be questioned in eternity!

Speak it not lightly! 'twill be the young and gay
Are thronging round thee now, with tones of mirth,
Let not the holy promise of to-day
Fade like the clouds that with the morn have birth,
But ever bright and sacred may it be,
Stored in the treasure cell of memory.

Life will not prove all sunshine: there will come
Dark hours for all; O will ye, when the night
Of sorrow gathers thickly round your home,
Love as ye did, in times when calm and bright
Seemed the true path ye trod, untouched by care,
And deemed the future like the present fair!

Eyes that now beam with health; may yet grow dim,
And cheeks of rose forget their glow;
Languor and pain assail each active limb,
And lay perchance, some worshipp'd beauty low;
Then will ye gaze upon the altered brow,
And love as fondly, as ye loved before?

Should fortune frown on your defenceless head,
Should storms o'ertake your bark, on life's dark sea,
Fierce tempests rend the sail so gaily spread,
When hope her syren strain sung joyously—
Will ye look up, though clouds your sky o'ercast,
And say, "Zug-ther we will ride the blast?"

Age with its silver locks comes stealing on,
And brings the tottering step, the furrow'd cheek,
The eye from which each lustrous gleam hath gone,
And the pale lip with accents low and weak,
Will ye then think upon your life's gay prime,
And smiling, bid Love triumph over Time?

Speak it not lightly! Oh! beware, beware!
'Tis no vain promise, no unmeaning word:
Lo! men and angels heed the faith you swear,
And by the high and holy OWE 'tis sworn;
On then, kneel humbly at his altar now,
And pray for strength to keep your marriage vow!

M. N. M.

New York, May, 1840.

MY SISTER'S CHILD.

BY MISS A. M. F. BUCHANAN.

It has my sister's gentle eyes,
Her soft and shining hair—
Her cheek, in form and changeful dyes,
And placid brow as there.
My darling! when with merry laugh
I echo back thine own,
'Tis oft that I forget me, half,
What cares my way have sown:
The partner of my being's springs,
Herself, while nearest thou,
I scarce can feel the world-worn thing
That acts thy mother now.

Yet while by yonder turf bank low
Thou hid'st in feigning sleep,
Thine eyes a glance may hardly know
From violet, whence they peep—
While o'er the russet thou dost lean
And from its eddies dip
The foam in cups of oak-leaves green,
To wet thy smiling lip—
Though bounds my heart to meet thy play,
'Tis sometimes chided with fear—
Thus rang her voice out yesterday—
How long shall thou be here?

"My sister's child!"—how well that sound
Recalls the happy hour,
When, looking innocent and fond
As thou upon you dower,
A mother's tie sweetest she heard,
And on the accents hung,
When first thou marred the tender word
With thy unpractised tongue:
How proud I spoke! your beauty rare
'Tis now was triumph high—
Ye formed a picture strangely fair,
Its owner rich was I!

"My sister's child! my sister's child!"
With aching heart I said,
To watch her stroke thy ringlets wild,
Upon her dying bed.
She gave thee to my love, her trust
Most precious and the last,
To guard, when unto dust
Her worshipp'd form had passed:
I clasped thee from her thin white hand,
She faded as she smiled—
God help me in her stead to stand,
And bless her angel child!

MISCELLANY.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

We understand that the Emperor of Russia, by his agent, has closed a contract with Mr. Norris, of Philadelphia, for "two hundred locomotive engines," forty of which are to be delivered each year; for which the Emperor is to pay \$1,400,000. These engines are principally to run upon the great railroad now in construction between St. Petersburg and Moscow. We believe Mr. Norris had previously made a contract to furnish several engines to the Government of Austria, and our readers will recollect seeing it stated in the papers sometime since, that the locomotive of Mr. Norris took a premium in England after a full and fair trial with many others.

This is another and a most conclusive proof that the ingenuity, skill and enterprise of our countrymen, in a fair trial, is fully equal to that of any and every other people, and that whenever and wherever we come in competition with equal advantages, we shall come off victors.

It is now the opinion of scientific men, who have looked into the matter, that

there is no longer any doubt of the complete success of the experiment of manufacturing iron with anthracite coal, and, if so, that America must soon become the great iron market of the world, as she will be able to furnish the article much cheaper than it can be obtained any where else. The subject of railroads is now being discussed throughout Europe. France has at least 1,000 miles in contemplation, and Russia and Austria as many more—and even the Government of the Sublime Porte is beginning to talk of a railroad from some of the outer ports of the kingdom to Constantinople. When we recollect that, five years since, we were obliged to send to Europe for our locomotives, and that now we can manufacture them cheaper and better, both for ourselves and others, can we doubt that, within ten years from this time, Pennsylvania will furnish to Russia, to France, and to Austria, not only her locomotives, but her railroad iron?

Thus, then, the tide of trade will be completely turned, and instead of paying to Europe interest for money to make our railroads and canals, we shall not only be able to cancel our State debt, but receive millions of European gold and silver, in return for the iron and coal of our mountains. Pennsylvania herself can furnish iron sufficient to hoop the globe several times with railroads, and coal in abundance to run the engines upon them for a century.—*Keystone.*

SCULPTORS AND SCULPTURE.

In a small work, recently published in the Harpers' Family Library, it is asserted by Mr. B. Lossing, the compiler, who does not seem to have been particularly conversant with the subject which he has attempted to consider, that but little attention has been paid to Sculpture as an art in this country. The intelligent reader need hardly be informed that such is not the fact. When we reflect upon the scant encouragement which the Fine Arts have received in this country, we are truly surprised that their most difficult branch should have been so frequently and so successfully cultivated. There are at least half a dozen Sculptors of good renown, of whom America can boast—and this is quite as many as can be claimed by any other country at the present day.

Mr. Powers of Cincinnati and Mr. Greenough of Boston, have attained to a skill in the art of Plastic, quite equal, if not superior to that of any master of whom modern Italy can boast. Mr. Greenough was first made favorably known to his countrymen by two groups and a single statue in marble, which were exhibited in Boston; and, if we mistake not, in some more southern cities! The groups were two, designated as the Chanting Cherubs and the Angel and Child. The latter to our view was the most pleasing. It represented an angel child leading a mortal infant up to Heaven. The power of the work was indicated in the imparting of spirituality of form and expression to the former, which the latter was yet too earthly to put on. The subject though not a great one, was one which touched the natural affections, elicited the finest sympathies and suggested elevating thoughts to the mind. The single statue was the Medora of Lord Byron's Corsair. We were not so fortunate as to see it; it displayed, we were told, "the rapture of repose."

To the country at large this native artist is best known, from his having been recently employed in the sculpture of a full-length statue of Washington, to be placed in the rotunda of the Capitol. Letters from abroad that have given a description of the design and execution of this laborious performance, have been unsatisfactory. With us, no impression remains of what the statue is to be—we hope from our souls, that it may be worthy of the illustrious subject, and not disappoint the expectations of those who may think that the twenty thousand dollars appropriated for the object was a mighty sum.

Mr. Powers, who has been for two years past resident in Italy, has acquired pretty much all of his present high reputation during that period of time. He is said to be possessed of superior genius to his Boston predecessor and rival, (Greenough) has been abroad in the same inspiring climate, for a much longer period, though he may not yet have afforded to mankind any works from which his fame may be said to have sprung. Indeed, we are not aware that the chisel of this artist has hewn any marble into imaginative forms, or that he has copied, even in model clay, either of the sublime achievements of antiquity.

He is known from the wonderful fidelity and expressiveness of his busts. They are said to be not only exact likenesses, but to be animated with an ideality and spirit, that warm the marble into a life, which asks nothing but color and motion to

make it real. One of Mr. Powers' busts, (we believe of Mr. Preston, of South Carolina,) was recently, and it may be, is now to be seen at the rooms of young Brackett, in the new granite building on the corner of Chambers street and Broadway.

The mention of Mr. Brackett reminds us of an intention we have some time entertained, to commend his abilities to the notice of the public. He has extraordinary merit—and of this our citizens and sojourners in New York may satisfy themselves by a visit to his studio. We believe that this artist has established himself permanently here.

Not so Mr. Clevenger, another Buckeye from Ohio. This sculptor has been in this city for some months past, but is to remain only a few weeks longer, before departing for Italy. He has recently modelled a bust of the late Samuel Ward, from pictures of the deceased. He is now employed upon one of Chancellor Kent.

Besides the above, there are among us other artists of merit in this department. We have not space to enumerate them now; but our object in writing this article has been accomplished, if we have succeeded in showing, that there is a single American sculptor who can execute what is worthy of liberal and wealthy patronage. There is nothing which so tends to expand the intellect and ameliorate the manners of a nation, as a due cultivation of the fine arts. There is something in their pursuits and encouragement, so apart from the ordinary and debasing cares of existence; so superior to business and politics, and the frivolous enjoyments of society; so much better than novel reading and travelling, like Lord Lovell in the ballad, "strange countrees for to see"—that men for their own sakes, and for the sakes of their children, if incapable of being inspired by patriotic motives, should give a pittance of their wealth, a few dollars of their incomes and salaries, a something from the fruits of their industry even, to promote the extension and improvement of these arts, and to relieve their professors from that worst restraint upon intellectual exertion—the anxiety of daily toil for daily bread.—*N. Y. S. M. News.*

From the Army and Navy Chronicle.

CAPTAIN THISTLE'S INVENTIONS.

There have been in all ages and countries men whose creative genius and indomitable spirit have overcome the disadvantages of station and of early education. Such a man we conceive Captain Thistle to be, who if he had had the benefit of liberal education, might have shed light upon science, and conferred benefits upon mankind. His inventive faculties are never idle, and have produced valuable improvements in several objects in military use, some of which we propose to notice. It is not claimed for them that they will effect any great revolution in the art of war or in military manoeuvres; they are of humbler pretensions, but are nevertheless calculated to facilitate the operations of military bodies. An account of one of these inventions—a saddle for removing wounded men from the field of battle—was published in the Army and Navy Chronicle of October 27, 1836. We therefore omit any further notice of that at present, and commence with the

PACK-SADDLE.—This invention was submitted in Feb. 1839, to the examination of a board consisting of Major (now Lt. Col.) Garland, Captains M. M. Clarke and A. R. Hetzel, who reported that after having carefully examined it, they considered it "well adapted for the purpose of packing military supplies for the army serving in Florida and on the western frontier;" and they accordingly recommended that the pattern be adopted. A small number was only at first ordered, waiting the test of experience before it was brought into general use. These were distributed in Florida and along the frontiers, and partial reports thereon have been made. The Quartermaster General is, however, so well convinced of the superiority of this saddle over all others now in use, that he intends, if the reports of its test in actual service in the field are as favorable as he anticipates, to introduce it as rapidly as it may become necessary to replace the large supply now on hand. Major W. C. Sanders, who acted as Quartermaster to a brigade of Tennessee volunteers in Florida, gave it as his decided opinion that Capt. Thistle's saddle was a great improvement upon those formerly in use, and that it deserved the commendation of every officer of the army. He estimated that in Florida alone, not less \$100,000 had been lost in horses injured by the ordinary pack saddle; and his opinions are fully confirmed by Capt. B. L. Beall, of the 3d regiment Dragoons, U. S. A. Mr. Hall J. Kelly, who has travelled much in Mexico and California, where nearly all burdens are carried on the backs of horses and mules, expresses

his conviction that this saddle is a great improvement on any thing of the kind he had ever seen, and hoped to see it brought into general use.

Another of Capt. Thistle's inventions is the

WROUGHT-IRON CANNON.—This cannon cannot only be made much lighter than of cast iron, and consequently much less cumbersome to transport with an army, but at one third the expense of brass guns, while it is more durable. The manufacture of wrought-iron cannon in this country has never been attempted except by way of experiment, and the effort would no doubt, be attended at first, like that of every new invention, with difficulty and occasional loss; but that cannon of this description can be made, and successfully used, seems very rational; for if wrought-iron muskets, rifles and pistols, are so evidently superior to cast-iron that the latter materials is never thought of in their construction, there would seem to be no solid reason why cannon should not be made as well as small arms, of wrought-iron.

Captain W. H. Bell, an officer of high standing and science in the U. S. Ordnance corps, has stated that "artillerists who had seen the above enumerated defects [want of sufficient tenacity, strength, and hardness] in field-artillery, saw very clearly that there was but one known metal which could afford to cannon the necessary lightness, strength and durability, and that was wrought-iron, in which there was nearly the same hardness as in cast-iron, much greater strength, and incomparably greater tenacity." Attempts have been made in Europe and in this country to manufacture wrought-iron cannon, but always failed in consequence of imperfect welding. This difficulty Captain Thistle professes to have overcome, and asked of Congress an appropriation of \$10,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War in the construction of a rifled or smooth bore wrought-iron cannon. The appropriation was not made, probably from want of time to deliberate upon it. It is an experiment worth the cost of trial, and if it effect but half the benefits expected from a change of material, an entire revolution in that implement of war may ere long take place. It will not do, in the present age, to say at what point improvement shall stop.

Still another invention is that of an IMPROVED CARBINE.—Gen. Jesup, an old as well as an experienced soldier, remarks that "we have long wanted, for service in the field, arms that could be loaded at the breech. This ordinary musket must be brought to the ground to be loaded, thus exposing the body of the soldier; if it could be loaded at the breech, the bayonet would be projected in front of the body, covering it from sudden attack, and affording all the moral advantage arising from the consciousness, on the part of the soldier, of comparative security." Gen. J. adds, that "the principle applied by Capt. Thistle to his carbine remedies the defect which has rendered Hall's rifles useless; and rifles, muskets and carbines upon that principle must ultimately supersede all other small arms now in use." This is strong testimony, and as satisfactory as any, short of actual experiment, need be. All that is wanted is the opportunity to give the carbine a fair trial; but Capt. Thistle's circumstances are such that he cannot make the experiments with his own means; and unless he can obtain the aid of Government or of men of capital, his invention stands but a poor chance of success.

These inventions, if carried into successful operation, ought to bring wealth and fame to the inventor; but there is still another—a

PORTABLE MAGAZINE.—Lieut. A. M. Mitchell, formerly of the 4th infantry, acted as ordnance officer in Florida during the campaign of 1836, and testifies to the great want at that period of such an invention. There was no means of transporting the ammunition on horseback, without ruining the animal and rendering the ammunition unfit for use by exposure. In a four days march, nearly every animal was rubbed by the boxes so much as to be unfit for use; and he is confident that if they had had the benefit of Captain Thistle's invention which he had examined, this would have been avoided.

We have here the testimony of several officers of science, skill, and experience, as to the importance and utility of Capt. Thistle's various inventions or improvements; but none of them have yet been adopted to any extent. In some countries he would have been caressed and remunerated; here he is neglected, and left to fight his own way to notice. There is an energy and invincibility of spirits in Americans which despises obstacles, that incite only to greater perseverance instead of producing discouragement.

We might add that Captain Thistle has expended considerable sums of money—

American.

"NOT RIGHT OR WRONG, OUR COUNTRY."

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1840.

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indeed all that he could command—in making the models and experiments, and in bringing his improvements as near to perfection as it was practicable to do; so that he is now left without the means to continue those experiments, or make any further improvements that may suggest themselves. We trust, however, that the Government will not allow these useful inventions to be lost, for want of trial, and that the ingenious inventor may be remunerated for his labors and disappointments.

AGRICULTURE.

From the Cheeky Farmer.

THE GRAND EMPLOYMENT.

Husbandry was a primeval employment, and was engaged in immediately after the creation of the world. It has been pursued, with various success, by all nations down to the present time.

It is a high gratification to realize that on a subject of so much importance as the cultivation of the soil, we can all unite for its advancement.

Agriculture is a subject that never has been, nor ever can be, exhausted by discussion. Probably there is no branch of business so imperfectly understood in this section of the country as husbandry.

It would seem that there is no branch of business, of so much importance and so necessary that it should be well known, that it may be successfully practiced, as the cultivation of the soil; as on its productions the great family of man depend for subsistence.

In agriculture, as in all other employments, if we would pursue it successfully, we should understand it, or in other words, have a thorough knowledge of its theory. That we may obtain that information, we should furnish ourselves with books from the best authors on that subject, and, at least, with one periodical, devoted to agriculture; and studying them attentively, we shall be prepared to perfect our knowledge by experience.

I am aware there has been, and is at the present time much prejudice against book-farming as it is termed; but may not the same objection be urged against almost every other employment, with quite as much reason? and yet, does not the architect study the different orders of work with plans and drawings before him?—The young man who would prepare himself for the practice of medicine not only studies for years, but, if he intends to become eminent, avails himself of all the new works on the subject, and studies them with diligence and attention! The traveller furnishes himself with a gazetteer—the mariner with a compass, chart, &c., and is it not equally important that the farmer should avail himself of all the information within his reach? We would not be understood to place too much stress on theory alone, as perhaps no man ever attained a thorough knowledge of husbandry merely, by books or oral information. Experience is indispensable to fix a knowledge of the multifarious branches of it in our minds. It is needful to teach us the easiest method of performing a thousand things which depend on circumstances so minute, that they were never committed to paper, and scarcely thought to be worth mentioning. But experience, however necessary, is not all that is wanting to make an accomplished farmer; observation is important, that we may profit by the experience and experiment of others. This enables us to adopt the best method to effect our object in all the various branches of husbandry. Therefore no person ought to conclude from having had the longest experience, that he has the greatest degree of knowledge; as some persons will learn more by experience and close observation in one year than others will in forty.

If we would acquire the appellation of a good farmer, and so pursue the occupation as to make it pleasant and profitable, we must study its theory until we attain a thorough knowledge of it in all its branches. We must learn the nature and properties of soils, know their wants and how to apply the remedy. We must be industrious and persevering, giving a close personal attention to all business, taking care of all the little, for, for want of care "many an estate is spent in getting"—Poor Richard has told us.

The study of agriculture as a science, and its pursuit as an employment, we deem admirably calculated to produce individual happiness; inasmuch as it leads the mind away from the turmoil and bustle of many other pursuits, and places a reliance on individual exertion and the blessings of Heaven.

There is a mistake and a fatal mistake too in the mind of many of our young men in respect to farming. They are anxious to engage in any occupation but that of a cultivator of the soil. They look upon labor, especially agricultural labor, as less profitable if not less honorable than any other employment. It is this error we believe that has filled our coun-

try to overflowing with professional men and reckless speculators. A small portion only of the younger class, can obtain employment to render their situation independent; while the larger portion are nearly destitute of business. As for the latter class, they are a worthless set of beings, a nuisance to the country; as they cut up the corn they in no way contribute to raise.

The grand mistake, that farming is disreputable, is an error of the present day. Farming was held by the ancients in high repute, as it is by many of the great and learned men of the present time. The Emperor of China annually, we are told, takes his team, ploughs his field and sows his grain: after which he invokes the blessing of Heaven, thus setting a noble and praiseworthy example to his subjects. Cincinnatus was taken from the plough and made dictator of Rome; and in America Washington left his farm, Putnam his plough, and Stark our own granite hills, to head the victorious armies of the Revolution; and of still later time Jackson, Clay, Webster, and a host of others, are far more happy when directing their farms, than when engaged in the councils of the nation.

It is imagined by some, that a farmer is coarse and illiterate: such is not necessarily the fact. No pursuit offers more opportunities for the cultivation of the mind; and that man who does not read cannot expect to excel in the cultivation of the soil.

Farming is one of the most peaceful, as it is also one of the most patriotic occupations; and were I young and again to commence business and at liberty to choose my occupation, I would select that of the farmer. It is true the gains of the husbandman are small; but they are sure. There is a great satisfaction in looking over our farms, realizing they are ours; that they are not like the property of the speculator, thrown at mere hazard.

In the labor of the field under the blue arch of heaven, when the breeze is pure and refreshing, there is that freedom from care and perplexity seldom enjoyed in any other pursuit.

What situation can confer on us more happiness than that of a farmer? He sees his crop arise and flourish around him, the fields of waving corn and yellow grain; trees of his own planting loaded with fruit; flocks and herds grazing upon the hills which are his. And when winter comes the farmer has ample leisure and opportunity to improve his mind. Who can, with suitable language describe the happiness of the winter evenings of the industrious and intelligent farmer, with his family clustered around his hearth, listening to an interesting volume, read by one of their number; while the mother and daughters ply the needle in almost breathless silence.

Such is the situation of the farmer, who embracing the opportunities his occupation affords for the improvement of his mind, pursues his moral labors with industry and virtue.

JOHN CONANT.

IMPROVEMENT OF LIGHT SOILS.

We have often called the attention of farmers to the important subject of enriching their lands by ploughing in green crops, and results of experiments have been given showing great utility. Yet many who have light lands well adapted to this system of improvement, neglect it wholly, and year after year reap a stunted harvest from the most of their lands.

We would urge every farmer who has light unproductive lands, to make experiments in manuring with green crops, and not be content joggling along in the old way without trying the new.

Light lands can doubtless be enriched cheaper by green crops than by any other system. The great advantage of this method is that the green crops, which serve as measure, is nourished in a great measure, from the atmosphere; so that not only all that is produced from the soil is returned to it, but a great deal more which is absorbed from the atmosphere. The green crop is the medium by which the rich gases in the atmosphere, which contribute greatly to the nourishment of plants, are transferred to the soil.

One great advantage of manuring with green crops is the growth, or partial growth, of the green crop, while the land otherwise would be at rest. On most light soils the grass starts early and is cut early; and from the time of mowing until the time of planting and sowing, the latter part of May and the first of June following, a good crop of winter rye and clover would be produced, which turned in would greatly enrich the land; and frequently the rye for pasturage in fall would pay the expense for seed.

It would be in season to plant corn the 25th of May or the first of June if an early kind be used. These times would answer for carrots and leeks, barley, oats,